Satellite based Reconnaissance and Surveillance System

1779. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAM: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the indigenous Satellite-based Reconnaissance and Surveillance System, a Rs. 1050 crore joint ISRO-DRDO project to augment surveillance over the country's airspace, is running behind schedule; if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(b) by when it is now likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has undertaken a programme for Satellite Based Surveillance and reconnaissance (SBS) for ground surveillance. Programme is in advanced stage of development and is planned to be completed by January 2007. Validation of Technologies has taken more time than anticipated.

(b) The project is likely to be completed by January 2007.

Leucoderma drug developed by DARL

† 1780. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the subordinate office of the Ministry, DARL (Defence Agro Research Laboratory), Pithoragarh, Uttaranchal has developed a medicine for Leucoderma and its production and sale rights have been handed over to a private company;

(b) if so, the name of that private company and whether that company has started its production; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the arrangements made for the availability of the said medicine to the patients who were getting this medicine from DARL?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Yes, Sir. Defence Agriculture Research Laboratory, Pithoragarh, a laboratory of Defence R&D Organisation has developed a herbal medicine for Leucoderma.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.